

California, Elks Club, Rotary International, Masons, and Shriners. He also served for three years as a member of the Board of Trustees for the ValleyCare Charitable Foundation, which helps contribute to state-of-the-art healthcare in the Tri-Valley.

During his life, Johnny enjoyed hunting and sports, and he was an avid fan of the San Francisco Giants and the San Francisco 49ers. He is survived by his high school sweetheart and wife of 65 years, Maxine; his four sons: Michael, Terry, Joey, and Lane; and, his five grandchildren. Johnny will be missed by many.

MEDAL OF HONOR FOR DONALD P. SLOAT

HON. JIM BRIDENSTINE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. BRIDENSTINE. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, October 28, 2013, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 3304, a bill to authorize and request the President of the United States to award the Medal of Honor to Bennie G. Adkins and Donald P. Sloat of the United States Army for acts of valor during the Vietnam Conflict and to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to certain other veterans who were previously recommended for award of the Medal of Honor. I am a proud original co-sponsor of H.R. 3304.

The late Mr. Donald P. Sloat was a constituent in the First District of Oklahoma. Then-Specialist Four Donald P. Sloat served our country during the Vietnam Conflict. On January 17, 1970, then-Specialist Four Donald Sloat, a machinegunner with Company D, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment, 196th Light Infantry, Americal Division was killed saving the lives of three of his fellow soldiers by shielding them from a grenade blast with his own body.

For his gallantry and intrepidity, then-Secretary of Defense Robert Gates determined that Mr. Sloat's actions merited the Medal of Honor. I submit the following letter from Secretary Gates to Representative Howard P. "Buck" McKeon, Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee. In his letter, Secretary Gates notes that the Medal of Honor must be awarded "within three years after the date of the act justifying the award." Congress must waive the time limit before the President of the United States can award the Medal of Honor to Mr. Sloat. By passing H.R. 3304, the House of Representatives took the first step in ensuring that Mr. Sloat receives the honor he so richly deserves.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE,
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON,

Washington, DC, January 11, 2013.

Hon. HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing in response to requests from Senator Tom Coburn and Representative John Sullivan for award of the Medal of Honor (MoH) to then-Specialist Four (SP4) Donald P. Sloat under the provisions of title 10, U.S.C., section 1130, of "Consideration of proposals for decorations not previously submitted in timely fashion: procedures for review."

I reviewed the proposal for award of the MoH to then-SP4 Sloat for saving the lives of

three of his fellow soldiers by shielding them from a grenade blast with his own body on January 17, 1970, during the Vietnam conflict. After giving the nomination careful consideration, I believe then-SP4 Sloat's actions merit award of the MoH. However, title 10, U.S.C., section 3744, requires that the MoH be awarded "within three years after the date of the act justifying the award." Therefore, a statutory time waiver to title 10, U.S.C., section 3744, is required before the President of the United States may, if he so chooses, award the MoH to then-SP4 Sloat.

The final award authority for the MoH rests solely with the President of the United States. My favorable determination in no way presumes what the President's decision might be.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs. A similar letter is being sent to the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, Senator Tom Coburn, and Representative John Sullivan.

Sincerely,

ROBERT M. GATES,
Secretary of Defense.

DISAPPROVAL RESOLUTION RELATING TO DEBT LIMIT INCREASE

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2013

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.J. Res. 99.

My Republican colleagues can't help themselves. It wasn't enough that they nearly caused a global economic meltdown by forcing the government to close and stonewalling an increase in the debt limit earlier this month. Now they want to do it all over again by revoking the President's authority to raise the debt limit, which Congress granted him in a bipartisan manner. Republicans in the House aren't just welshing on that compromise, but they're also signaling their intention to take the country over the brink again, all to score political points.

This is a farcical exercise and one undeserving of this body's consideration. I would hope that early October's nightmare taught us a lesson or two, but it appears that some of my colleagues haven't learned a thing. All of this boils down to a simple question: Do you support preventing a catastrophic worldwide economic calamity that will decimate the lives of your constituents? If so, then vote down H.J. Res. 99.

RECOGNIZING THE MEMBERS OF HILLSBORO VFW POST 9094

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the members of Hillsboro VFW Post 9094 for their patriotism and volunteerism.

This week, Post 9094 celebrates their 75th anniversary, which is a testament to the lasting commitment these veterans have to help-

ing fellow veterans and non-veterans in Highland County.

The Korean War Memorial is inscribed "Our nation honors her sons and daughters who answered the call to defend a country they never knew and a people they never met."

In conflicts around the globe, the members of VFW Post 9094 answered this call.

Southern Ohio and our nation are eternally grateful to them for their service, and deeply grateful that these dedicated veterans continue to answer the call to support and protect all veterans and families in need in Highland County, as Post 9094 has now done for 75 years.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE EXPANSION LIMITATION ACT OF 2013

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss my bill, the National Wildlife Refuge Expansion Limitation Act of 2013, which requires that any expansion of a national wildlife refuge be approved by Congress. Currently, there is little Congressional oversight of the Federal Government's ability to arbitrarily designate land as biologically necessary for increasing a public land management unit. While I'm a firm believer in ensuring our environment is flourishing with wildlife, this is not the path to follow. Washington purchasing up private lands will have long term consequences.

Mr. Speaker, by introducing this bill, I hope to prevent the Federal Government from creating instability in economically depressed rural regions by drawing arbitrary acquisition boundaries around private land and creating hundreds of disconnected, protected refuge areas. Aggressively creating islands of "hold-out parcel" farmland surrounded by environmentally protected refuge lands has shown to be disruptive to economically important rural industries. Whether by regulation or the Federal Government passively forcing out landowners by excessive regulation and poor refuge maintenance, the private landowners lose.

My district is a prime example of the Federal Government's unwanted advances. In the Eighth District of Tennessee, the Fish & Wildlife Service is attempting to purchase 120,000 additional acres of land, which equates to over 1,000 privately owned parcels along 49 miles of the Mississippi River and 106 miles of the Hatchie River. This land grab is on top of the existing 27,947 acres already purchased and protected by the federal government. Even more alarming, the Fish & Wildlife Service has not even completed purchasing lands within the existing refuge designation.

This expansion equates to the largest refuge east of the Mississippi, impacting our crop production, tax base, freedom of land use, and people's way of life. At a time of government shut downs, sequestration, fiscal cliffs, debt debates, and legislative stalemates, rapid expansion projects seem extremely short sighted. Under-funded, under-maintained refuges lead to a loss of realistic recreational use, productive farm land, and tax revenue for county rolls across the country.